

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statements were filed on January 4, 2002 and May 28, 2003 but the returned initialed copies of the PTO-1449's (attached hereto) did not acknowledge consideration of all references. An indication of consideration of the remaining references is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome the objection thereto. All claim elements have been placed in non-means-plus-function format.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Lundby (US 2002/0141505). Claim 3 is rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Lundby.

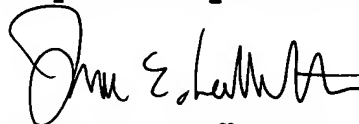
Applicant respectfully notes that the present Japanese priority date is May 19, 2000, whereas the 102(e) date of Lundby is March 30, 2001. To perfect the claim of priority, the Applicant submits herewith an English translation of the priority document together with a statement that the translation is accurate. Claims 1-5 are supported by the priority application.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections relying on Lundby are overcome.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 28, 2005  
JEL/DWW/att

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